

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/716,048	CHARTRAND, VICTOR	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Quynh H. Nguyen	2642	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 6/13/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 10-15, 24, and 35-60 renumbered as claims 1-37.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
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Quynh H. Nguyen
Tel: (571)-272-7489

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Robert M. Hunter on 11/22/05.

3. Claims 1-4, 10-15, 24, 35, 38-54, 56, and 58-60 have been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A method of processing a call, the method comprising:

informing ~~the customers~~ a customer of a telecommunications system that is capable of ~~connecting~~ routing calls to a plurality of communications devices of the customer that one of a plurality of unique sets of symbol headings is normally, but not always, associated with one type of communications device that is connectable to a the telecommunications system;

assigning one of a plurality of common 7-digit telephone numbers available within an area code of a local area to ~~each selected~~ the customer of the telecommunications system ~~within each area code of each local area~~ and granting ~~said each selected~~ the customer having a specific communications device that is connected to the



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telecommunications system the exclusive right to optionally use a combination comprising any one of said unique sets of symbol headings plus said common 7-digit telephone number to identify the specific communications device other than a voice landline device to the other customers of the telecommunications system, the specific communications device being identified as one of the plurality of communications devices of the customer;

receiving a sequence of signals representing a specific set of symbol headings plus a specific common 7-digit telephone number that has been dialed by a caller, the combination of the specific set of symbol headings plus said specific common 7-digit telephone number and no other common 7-digit telephone number alone identifying the specific communications device that is the destination for said call; and

connecting said call to the specific communications device that is the destination for said call without the need for the telecommunications system to determine the type of communications device to which the call is directed;

wherein only one specific communications device of the customer has its own 7-digit telephone number; and

wherein no other communications device shares a line with said voice landline device.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the specific set of symbol headings is a # symbol and the # symbol plus said specific common 7-digit telephone

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number identifies a specific fax machine or a specific second voice line with or without an associated facsimile machine.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the specific set of symbol headings is a * symbol and the * symbol plus said specific common 7-digit telephone number identifies a first specific cellular telephone.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the specific set of symbol headings is a digit plus the * symbol and the * symbol plus said specific common 7-digit telephone number identifies another specific cellular telephone.

Claim 10 (currently amended) A method of directing a call to a specific communications device, comprising:

announcing to ~~the customers~~ a customer of a telecommunications system that is capable of routing calls to a plurality of communications devices of the customer that one of a plurality of unique symbols is normally associated with a particular type of communications device that is connectable to a telecommunications system;

assigning one of a plurality of common 7-digit telephone numbers to each selected the customer of the telecommunications system and granting ~~said each~~ selected the customer having a specific communications device the exclusive right to optionally use a combination comprising any one of said unique symbols plus said common 7-digit telephone number to identify the specific communications device to

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other customers of the telecommunications system, the specific communications device being identified as one of the plurality of communications devices of the customer; and

receiving a call having been initiated by a caller by dialing a combination comprising a specific unique symbol and a specific common 7-digit telephone number;

determining the destination indicated by the combination, no other common 7-digit telephone number alone indicating said destination; and

routing the call to the specific communications device represented by the combination, without the need for the telecommunications system to determine the type of communications device to which the call is directed;

wherein only one specific communications device of each selected customer has its own 7-digit telephone number; and

wherein no other communications device shares a line with said specific communications device.

Claims 11 (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the specific unique symbol is a pound key and the pound key plus said specific common 7-digit telephone number identifies a specific facsimile machine or a specific second voice line with or without an associated facsimile machine.

Claim 12 (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the specific unique symbol is a star key and star key plus said specific common 7-digit telephone number identifies a first specific cellular telephone.

Claim 13 (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the specific unique symbol is a digit plus the star key and star key plus said specific common 7-digit telephone number identifies another specific cellular telephone.

Claim 14 (currently amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising directing the call to a cellular processing network if the specific unique symbol and the specific common 7-digit telephone number indicates that the call is being made to a specific cellular telephone.

Claim 15 (currently amended) A system for processing a call made to a telephone number and directed to a specific communications device to which that telephone number is assigned, the system comprising:

means for announcing to ~~the customers~~ a customer of a telecommunications system that is capable of routing calls to a plurality of communications devices of the customer that one of a plurality of suggested sets of symbol headings is normally associated with a single type of communications device that is connectable to a telecommunications system;

means for assigning one of a plurality of common telephone numbers to each selected the customer of the telecommunications system and granting ~~said each~~ selected the customer having a specific communications device the exclusive right to optionally use a combination comprising any one of said suggested sets of symbol

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headings plus said common telephone number to identify the specific communications device to other customers of the telecommunications system, the specific communications device being identified as one of the plurality of communications devices of the customer;

a sequence of signals representing a specific set of symbol headings and a specific common telephone number that have been dialed by a caller, the sequence of signals being the sole directory number for the specific communications device, the set of symbol headings immediately preceding the telephone number, being distinguishable from said common telephone number and together with said common telephone number defining a destination for said call; and

a routing apparatus having a switching component and an identification component for determining the intended destination of the call and connecting the call to that destination without the need for the telecommunications system to determine the type of communications device to which the call is directed;

wherein only one specific communications device of each selected customer has its own 7-digit telephone number; and

wherein no other communications device shares a line with said specific communications device.

Claim 24 (currently amended) A routing system for directing calls to different communications devices having identical common 7-digit voice landline telephone numbers, said system comprising:

an administrative subsystem comprising means for informing ~~the customers a~~ customer of a telecommunications system that is capable of routing calls to a plurality of communications devices of the customer that one of a plurality of symbol headings is normally associated with each type of communications device that is connectable to a telecommunications system and means for assigning one of a plurality of common telephone numbers to ~~each-selected~~ the customer of the telecommunications system and granting said ~~each-selected~~ the customer having a specific communications device the exclusive right to optionally use a combination comprising any one of said plurality of symbol headings plus said common telephone number to identify the specific communications device to other customers of the telecommunications system, the specific communications device being identified as one of the plurality of communications devices of the customer;

a network subsystem having routing apparatus including a switching component and an identification component for processing a call to a destination, the call including a sequence of signals indicating a particular one of said plurality of symbol headings and a particular common telephone number that have been dialed by a caller, the sequence of signals being the sole directory number for the specific communications device; and

at least one communications device assigned to a common telephone number;

wherein said particular one of said plurality of symbol headings does not indicate to said routing apparatus that the specific communications device is a particular type of communications device;

wherein only one specific communications device of each selected customer has its own 7-digit telephone number; and

wherein no other communications device shares a line with said specific communications device.

Claim 35 (currently amended) In a telecommunications system that is capable of ~~connecting~~ routing calls to a plurality of communications devices of a subscriber and in which ~~at least some subscribers control~~ the subscriber controls more than one of said plurality of communications devices, a system for routing a telephone call to a specific communications device of ~~a particular~~ the subscriber, said system comprising:

means for accepting a combination comprising a heading and a common telephone number as an indication that a caller desires to reach the specific communications device of the ~~particular~~ subscriber, said specific communications device of the ~~particular~~ subscriber being reachable by the caller's dialing no other common 7-digit telephone number, said specific communications device being indicated as one of the plurality of communications devices of the subscriber; and

means for routing said telephone call to the specific communications device of the ~~particular~~ subscriber;

wherein said heading does not indicate to said means for routing that the telephone call is a particular type of communication;

wherein only one specific communications device of the ~~particular~~ subscriber has its own 7-digit telephone number; and

wherein no other communications device shares a line with the specific communications device.

Claim 38 (currently amended) The system of claim 35, wherein said heading is a # symbol and the # symbol plus said common telephone number identifies a specific facsimile machine or a specific second voice line with or without an associated facsimile machine.

Claim 39 (currently amended) The system of claim 35, wherein said heading is a * symbol and * symbol plus said telephone common number identifies a first specific cellular telephone.

Claim 40 (currently amended) The system of claim 35, wherein said heading is a digit plus a * symbol and the digit plus the * symbol plus said common telephone number identifies another specific cellular telephone.

Claim 41 (currently amended) The system of claim 35, wherein said heading is a digit plus a # symbol and the digit plus the # symbol plus said common telephone number identifies another specific voice landline device with or without an associated facsimile machine.

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Claim 42 (currently amended) In a telecommunications system that is capable of routing calls to a plurality of communications devices of a subscriber, a system for routing a telephone call to a specific communications device of a ~~particular~~ the subscriber, said system comprising:

means for assigning a common telephone number to the ~~particular~~ subscriber;

means for accepting the common telephone number alone as an indication that a caller desires to reach the specific communications device of the ~~particular~~ subscriber, said specific communications device of the ~~particular~~ subscriber being a first voice landline telephone, the specific communications device being indicated as one of the plurality of communications devices of the subscriber;

means for accepting a combination comprising a symbol and the common telephone number as an indication that the caller desires to reach another specific communications device of the ~~particular~~ subscriber, said other specific communications device of the ~~particular~~ subscriber being reachable by the caller's dialing no other common 7-digit telephone number, the other specific communications device being indicated as another one of the plurality of communications devices of the subscriber;

and

means for routing said telephone call to the specific communications device of the ~~particular~~ subscriber;

wherein said symbol does not indicate to said means for routing that said telephone call is a particular type of communication;

wherein each other specific communications device does not have its own 7-digit telephone number; and

wherein no other communications device shares a line with said first landline telephone.

Claim 43 (currently amended) The system of claim 42 wherein at least one communications device must be in service for ~~each particular~~ the subscriber, said at least one communications device being selected from the group consisting of said first voice landline telephone, a facsimile machine and a cellular telephone.

Claim 44 (currently amended) The system of claim 42 wherein the other specific communications device of the ~~particular~~ subscriber is selected from the group consisting of:

another voice landline telephone,
a facsimile machine, and
a cellular or wireless telephone.

Claim 45 (currently amended) The system of claim 42, wherein said symbol is a # symbol and the # symbol plus said common telephone number identifies a specific fax machine or a specific second landline telephone.

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Claim 46 (currently amended) The system of claim 42, wherein said symbol is a * symbol and the * symbol plus said common telephone number identifies a first specific cellular telephone.

Claim 47 (currently amended) The system of claim 42, wherein said symbol is a digit plus a # symbol and the digit plus the # symbol plus said common telephone number identifies another specific voice landline telephone or another facsimile machine.

Claim 48 (currently amended) The system of claim 42, wherein said symbol is a digit plus a * symbol and the digit plus the * symbol plus said common telephone number identifies another specific cellular telephone.

Claim 49 (currently amended) In a telecommunications system that is capable of routing telephone calls to a plurality of communications devices of a particular subscriber within an area code, a routing system for routing a telephone call to a specific communications device of a the particular subscriber ~~within an area code~~, said routing system comprising:

means for assigning a common 7-digit telephone number to the particular subscriber;

means for accepting the common 7-digit telephone number alone as an indication that a caller desires to reach the specific communications device of the particular subscriber, said specific communications device of the particular subscriber

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being a first voice landline device, the specific communications device being indicated as one of the plurality of communications devices of the particular subscriber;

means for accepting an 8-part or 9-part telephone number comprising a heading and the common 7-digit telephone number as an indication that the caller desires to reach another specific communications device of the particular subscriber, said other specific communications device of the particular subscriber being reachable by the caller's dialing no other common 7-digit telephone number, the other specific communications device being indicated as another one of the plurality of communications devices of the particular subscriber; and

means for routing said telephone call to the specific communications device of the particular subscriber;

wherein said heading does not indicate to said means for routing that the call is a particular type of communication;

wherein said caller has the option of using as the heading a # for a facsimile device or a second voice device, a * for a first cellular device, or a 2*, a 3*, a 4*, a 5*, a 6*, a 7*, a 8*, or a 9* for another cellular device;

wherein each other specific communications device does not have its own 7-digit telephone number; and

wherein no other communications device shares a line with said first voice landline device.

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Claim 50 (currently amended) In a telecommunications system that is capable of routing telephone calls to a plurality of communications devices of a subscriber that is one of a plurality of subscribers within an area code, a method for routing a telephone call to a specific communications device of the subscriber ~~one of a plurality of subscribers within an area code~~, said method for routing comprising:

assigning a common 7-digit telephone number to the subscriber ~~one of a plurality of subscribers~~;

accepting the common 7-digit telephone number alone as an indication that a caller desires to reach the specific communications device of the subscriber ~~one of a plurality of subscribers~~, said specific communications device being a first voice landline device, the specific communications device being indicated as one of the plurality of communications devices of the subscriber;

accepting an 8-part or 9-part telephone number comprising a heading and the common 7-digit telephone number as an indication that the caller desires to reach another specific communications device of the subscriber ~~one of a plurality of subscribers~~, said other specific communications device being reachable by the caller's dialing no other common 7-digit telephone number, the other specific communications device being indicated as another one of the plurality of communications devices of the subscriber; and

routing said telephone call to the specific communications device of the subscriber ~~one of the plurality of subscribers~~;

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wherein said heading does not indicate to said system that the call is a particular type of communication;

wherein said caller has the option of using as the heading a # for a facsimile device or a second landline voice device, a * for a first cellular device, or a 2*, a 3*, a 4*, a 5*, a 6*, a 7*, a 8*, or a 9* for another cellular device; and

wherein each other specific communications device does not have its own 7-digit telephone number; and

wherein no other communications device shares a line with said first voice landline device.

Claim 51 (currently amended) The method of claim 50, further comprising:

increasing the total number of telephone numbers that are available to said caller in the area code from 7.92 million to 87.12 million without changing the common 7-digit telephone number that is assigned to any of the plurality of subscribers, thereby avoiding the inconvenience, stress and cost to any of the plurality of subscribers of changing that 7-digit telephone number.

Claim 52 (currently amended) The method of claim 50, further comprising:

increasing the total number of telephone numbers that are available to said caller within the area code by a factor of 11 without changing the specific common 7-digit telephone number that is assigned to any of the plurality of subscribers, thereby eliminating the present overlay practice of having two area codes in the same

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geographic region, which practice requires mandatory local 10-digit dialing of telephone numbers that must include one of the two area codes even if the one area code is the area code of said caller.

Claim 53 (currently amended) The method of claim 50, further comprising:

routing said telephone call without requiring the caller to dial a 10-digit telephone number within any geographic region having a requirement for no more than 87.12 million telephone numbers, said 10-digit number comprising a new overlay area code and the common 7-digit telephone number.

Claim 54 (currently amended) The method of claim 50, further comprising

accepting a 10-part or telephone number comprising the heading and the common 7-digit telephone number as an indication that the caller desires to reach a cellular communications device of the subscriber ~~one of a plurality of particular subscribers~~, said heading comprising a two-digit number in the range 20 through 99 plus a *.

Claim 56 (currently amended) The method of claim 50, further comprising:

encouraging the plurality of subscribers not to use any common 7-digit telephone number as a destination of a facsimile communication or a cellular communication, thereby increasing the number of 7-digit telephone numbers that are available to said caller as the destination for a voice landline communication within the area code by a

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factor of up to 3 by eliminating the need for any 7-digit telephone number to be used as facsimile machine number or cellular telephone number and allowing the available 7.92 million telephone numbers within each area code to be used as landline telephone numbers.

Claim 58 (currently amended) In a telecommunications system having 199.1 million residential subscribers and that is capable of routing telephone calls to a plurality of communications devices of a residential subscriber, a method for routing a telephone call to a specific communications device of ~~one of~~ said residential subscribers subscriber, said method for routing comprising:

assigning a common 7-digit telephone number to the residential subscriber;

accepting the common 7-digit telephone number alone as an indication that a caller desires to reach a first voice landline communications device of the residential subscriber or accepting an 8-part or 9-part telephone number comprising a heading and the common 7-digit telephone number as an indication that the caller desires to reach a cellular telephone communications device of the residential subscriber, said cellular telephone communications device being reachable by the caller's dialing no other common 7-digit telephone number, the first landline communications device or the cellular telephone being indicated as one of the plurality of communications devices of the residential subscriber; and

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routing said telephone call to the appropriate communications device of the residential subscriber without the need for the telecommunications system to determine the type of communications device to which the telephone call is directed;

wherein said cellular telephone communications device does not have its own 7-digit telephone number; and

wherein no other communications device shares a line with said first voice landline communications device;

thereby releasing the other 7-digit telephone numbers that are currently in use as cellular telephone numbers for other uses.

Claim 59: (currently amended) In a telecommunications system that is capable of routing telephone calls to a plurality of communications devices of a particular subscriber, a system for routing a telephone call to a specific communications device of a the particular subscriber, said system comprising:

means for assigning a common 7-digit telephone number to the particular subscriber;

means for accepting the common telephone number alone as an indication that a caller desires to reach the specific communications device of the particular subscriber, said specific communications device of the particular subscriber being a first voice landline telephone, the specific communications device being indicated as one of the plurality of communications devices of the particular subscriber; and

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means for accepting a combination comprising a symbol and the common telephone number as an indication that the caller desires to reach another specific communications device of the particular subscriber, said specific communications device of the particular subscriber being reachable by the caller's dialing no other common 7-digit telephone number, the other specific communications device being indicated as another one of the plurality of communications devices of the particular subscriber; and

means for routing the telephone call to the specific communications device of the particular subscriber without the need for the telecommunications system to determine the type of communications device to which the telephone call is directed; and

wherein at least one communications device must be in service for each particular subscriber, said at least one communications device being selected from the group consisting of said first voice landline telephone, a facsimile machine and a cellular telephone;

wherein each other specific communications device does not have its own 7-digit telephone number; and

wherein no other communications device shares a line with said first voice landline telephone;

whereby the particular subscriber's facsimile machine combination and the particular subscriber's cellular combination both include the particular subscriber's common 7-digit telephone number; and

whereby the particular subscriber and no other subscriber can use said particular subscriber's common 7-digit telephone number, said particular subscriber's facsimile machine combination or said particular subscriber's cellular telephone combination as the particular subscriber's sole telephone number as long as any one of them is in service.

Claim 60 (currently amended): In a telecommunications system that is capable of routing telephone calls to a plurality of communications devices of a particular subscriber, a system for routing a telephone call from a caller to a specific communications device of a the particular subscriber, said system comprising:

means for assigning a first telephone number to the landline telephone of the particular subscriber, a second telephone number to a facsimile machine or second landline telephone of the particular subscriber and a third telephone number to a cellular telephone of the particular subscriber, each of the landline telephone, the facsimile or second landline telephone and the cellular telephone being one of the plurality of communications devices of the particular subscriber; and

means for routing the telephone call to the specific communications device of the particular subscriber without the need for the telecommunications system to determine the type of communications device to which the telephone call is directed;

wherein only one specific communications device of the particular subscriber has its own 7-digit telephone number;

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wherein all of said telephone numbers comprise the exact same seven numerical digits and no other numerical digits, said second telephone number further comprises a # heading digit, and said third telephone number comprise a * heading digit;

wherein each specific communications device of the particular subscriber is reachable by the caller's dialing no other seven-digit telephone number; and

wherein no other communications device shares a line with said first landline telephone.

Allowable Subject Matter


The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance

For independent claims 1, 10, 15, 24, 35, 42, 49-50, and 58-60, the combination of the claimed features and the feature discussed below is neither taught nor made fairly obvious by the prior art of record. The claims recite a customer having a plurality of communication devices of different types such as: voice line, facsimile, cellular phone, modem, pager, etc. wherein only one of these devices will have a telephone number (7-digit telephone number) and the other devices will not have their own telephone numbers assigned to them. For example, a customer may have five devices, but will only be assigned one single 7-digit telephone number. Calls to that single telephone number will be routed to the appropriate communication device based on a prefix (symbol heading) dialed before the telephone number (see examples on page 4 of Applicant's specification) without the need for the telecommunications system to determine the type of communications device to which the telephone call is directed. The "other" communication devices are basically "number-less".

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

qhn

Quynh H. Nguyen


AHMAD F. MATAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2700